

2016

Glades County Florida Community Health Assessment Executive Summary



Prepared by:

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HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL
of Southwest Florida, Inc

Executive Summary

To access the report in its entirety, visit <http://www.hpcswf.com/health-planning/health-planning-projects/>.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics

Population Demographics

- Glades County has a population of 12,786. The county has a far lower population density than the Florida average; about 17 persons per square mile compared to a state average of 357 persons per square mile. It has the second smallest population density (Liberty County is the smallest, with a population density of 9.94). The largest proportion of the population of the county is between the ages of 25 and 64. 56.3 percent of the residents of Glades County are male while 43.7 percent are female; statewide the percentages are 48.9 percent male and 51.1 percent female. 18.8 percent of the population of Glades County is non-white, which is similar to the statewide population comprised of 21.4 percent non-whites. About 21.5 percent of the residents of Glades County identify as Hispanic; of those 89.6 percent are identified as white.

Socioeconomic Indicators

- The unemployment rate has decreased from 10.4 in 2010 to 7.2 percent in 2014; this rate is higher than the state rate of 6.3 percent. The percent of people living under the poverty level in Glades County is higher than the state as a whole (24.1% Glades vs. 17.1% State). Fewer residents of Glades County have received a high school diploma than the state average (76.0% Glades vs. 86.5% State). A much lower percentage of people in Glades County who are aged 25 and older have received a Bachelor's degree than the percentage of residents of Florida who have done the same (10.3% vs. 26.8% State). Among working adults in Glades County the most common areas of employment are education and healthcare services, agriculture, hospitality and service industry, transportation, and manufacturing.

Health Status

Health Ranking

- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps has Glades County currently ranked the 47th healthiest out of 67 counties in Florida for Health Outcomes. Glades County is ranked 47th healthiest for Health Factors.

Leading Causes of Death

- The death rate for Glades County is slightly lower than the state average (586.3 Glades three-year rate vs. 681.2 State). The death rate for Glades County has fallen consistently for the past ten years. The most frequent causes of death for people in Glades County are cancer and heart disease. Together they accounted for more than 45 percent of the deaths in 2014. Death rates for heart disease are lower than the state average (136.4 per 100,000 Glades vs. 154.5 State). The death rate from heart disease in Glades County has been declining. Among the types of cancer, lung cancer causes the highest number of deaths in Glades County. Cancer and heart disease are the leading causes of death for both whites and blacks. The rate for heart disease is

higher among blacks than whites (128.2 white population vs. 267.1 black population), also is true for the rate of death from cancer (113.8 white population vs. 200.6 black population).

Communicable Diseases

- Glades County ranks below the state average rate for all sexually transmitted diseases and many vaccine preventable diseases. Chlamydia is the most prevalent sexually transmitted disease in Glades County with an average of 38 cases per year between 2012 and 2014. That works out to a rate per 100,000 of 300.3; slightly lower than the state average of 417.8. This number has been increasing rapidly. An average of 1 person per year was diagnosed with AIDS in Glades County between 2012 and 2014. The rate per 100,000 in Glades County is 7.8 compared to a rate of 14.8 for the state as a whole.

Maternal and Child Health

- On average, 65 babies were born per year in Glades County between 2012 and 2014. There are more babies born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 in Glades County than the Florida average (25.8 Glades vs. 24.3 State). Infant mortality rates are very variable due to the small numbers involved. Two infant deaths in 2010 caused a large upswing. There were no infant deaths in 2014. The percent of infants born with a low birth weight has decreased (1.3 2009-2011 vs. 0.5 2012-2014), and is lower than the state average (1.6).

Hospitalizations

- Diabetes, congestive heart failure, chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) and bacterial pneumonia are the most common preventable causes of hospitalizations for Glades County residents. Compared to Florida as a whole, Glades County's 2014 rates of congestive heart failure and chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD) significantly higher. Hypertension is the number one cause of hospitalization for a chronic condition in Glades County. The hospitalization rates for AIDS have begun to fall over the last few years.

Emergency Room Visits by Glades County Residents

- Glades County Residents made 2,170 visits to hospitals in 2014 that did not result in an inpatient admission. More than half of the emergency room visits by Glades County residents were made to Hendry Regional Medical Center in Hendry County. The next four hospitals that received the largest number of visits from Glades County residents are in Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Highlands and Lee Counties respectively.

Health Resources

- As of 2014, approximately 8,700 out of every 100,000 people in Glades County were enrolled in Medicaid; the state rate is approximately 19,000 per 100,000. At both the state and the county level, there was a noticeable increase in the number of people enrolled in Medicaid in recent years. In 2010, Glades County was estimated as having 38.8 percent of adults without health insurance; this compares to a rate of 28.8 percent for Florida as a whole.

Physicians and Facilities

- As of 2014, there was one licensed physicians in Glades County. That works out to about 7.8 doctors for every 100,000 residents; that is a much lower rate than the state average of about 260 doctors for every 100,000 residents (*Please note that the number of licensed providers does not necessarily equal the number of practicing providers. These numbers may include providers who work in another county, only work part time, or are retired*). There are no hospital or nursing home beds in Glades County. The Glades County Health Department spent \$769,821 dollars in 2014 (down from \$1,064,472 in 2011); that places the rate of expenditure per 100,000 residents at nearly double the state average.

Federal Health Professional Shortage Designations

- Glades County has been designated as a Medically Underserved Area. Glades County has been designated as Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for primary care. Its Low Income/Migrant Farmworker Populations have been designated as HPSA for dental.

Social and Mental Health

- Since 2002, Glades County has had a higher suicide rate than the state average. The rate for the county fell from a peak of 31.2 deaths by suicide per 100,000 residents in 2010 to 18.1 for 2014. However, a small number of suicides can have a large impact on the rates.

Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- Alcohol use in the past 30 days was 22.1 percent for Glades County students, which was slightly higher than the state average of 20.5 percent. Alcohol use has been on the decline for Glades County students in the years surveyed, with a high of 35.8 percent in 2002. The percentage of students reporting cigarette use over the past 30 days has reduced considerably in Glades County and now close to the Florida average (5.7% Glades vs. 4.9% State). Past-30-day marijuana use for Glades County students was slightly lower than for the state as a whole. (10.0% Glades vs. 12.4% State). Rates have been variable across time.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Table 17: Behavioral Risk Factors Telephone Survey, Glades County, and State, 2013				
	Glades			Florida
		Trend	County Quartile	
Percent who Smoke	9.6%	Positive	1	16.8%
Percent who Drink Heavily	20.0%	Negative	4	17.6%
Percent with High Blood Pressure	39.8%	Positive	3	34.6%
Percent with High Cholesterol	46.6%	Steady	4	33.4%
Percent with Diabetes	11.4%	Steady	2	11.2%
Percent Overweight	41.2%	Steady	4	36.4%
Percent Obese	37.3%	Inconsistent	4	26.4%

Healthy People 2020 Objectives

Healthy People provides science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans. Healthy People 2020 is managed by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion within the US Department of Health and Human Services. Below is Glades County’s data with relation to selected objectives (comparing 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey data with 2013 data).

Glades County has <i>shown progress</i> in the following areas	Glades County <i>needs improvement</i> in the following areas
Adults 50 years of age and older who received a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy in the past five years.	Adults who are limited in any way in any usual activities because of arthritis or chronic joint symptoms.
Women 40 years of age and older who received a mammogram in the past year.	Women 18 years of age and older who received a Pap test in the past year.
Women 18 years of age and older who had a clinical breast exam in the past year.	adults with diabetes who had an annual foot exam, adults with diabetes who had an annual eye exam, adults with diabetes who had two A1C tests in the past year, adults with diabetes who ever had diabetes self-management education.
Adults with diabetes who self-monitor blood glucose at least once a day on average.	Adults who have a healthy weight (BMI from 18.5 to 24.9), Percentage of adults who are obese.
Adults with diagnosed hypertension.	adults age 65 and over who have ever received a pneumonia vaccination, adults age 65 and over who received a flu shot in the past year
Adults less than 65 years of age who have ever been tested for HIV.	Adults who have ever received a pneumonia vaccination.
Adult current smokers who tried to quit smoking at least once in the past year.	Adults who engage in heavy or binge drinking.

Community Input

Survey on Health and Healthcare in Glades County

131 surveys were completed by community members in the spring of 2016. The findings of the surveys are as follows:

- When asked, “How would you rate the general health of Glades County residents?” 1 percent of survey respondents said Excellent, 30 percent said Good, 58 percent said Fair, and 11 percent said Poor.
- When asked, “How would you rate the quality of healthcare in Glades County?” 1 percent of survey respondent said Excellent, 15 percent said Good, 45 percent said Fair, and 39 percent said Poor.
- Respondents were asked to select what they felt to be the three most important health concerns for residents of Glades County. . Not enough doctors topped the list, with 70 responses.
- Respondents were then asked to select the three most important risky behaviors in Glades County. Drug/Alcohol Abuse was listed most frequently, with 78 responses.

- Respondents were asked to designate the main reason that keeps Glades County residents from seeking medical treatment. Lack of health insurance and/or lack of ability to pay was cited as the number one reason by far with 44 responses.

Interviews with Community Leaders

The Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida conducted twenty-nine key informant interviews in 2014 through early 2015.

Regarding the Core Functions of Public Health, community leaders felt the top areas for improvement in Hendry County and Glades County were:

- Linking people to needed health services and ensuring the provision of care when otherwise unavailable (selected by 69% of respondents), and
- Informing, Educating, and Empowering people about health issues (selected by 59% of respondents).

Regarding the Essential Health Services, community leaders felt the top areas for improvement in Hendry County and Glades County were:

- Mental health and substance use disorder services, including counseling and psychotherapy (selected by 59% of respondents), and
- Preventative and wellness services, including vaccinations, screenings, etc. (selected by 41% of survey respondents).

With regards to mental health and substance use disorder services, the largest number of respondents felt that this area does not have enough availability of services. For preventative and wellness services, respondents were split (54.2% vs. 45.8%) on whether there is insufficient availability or adequate and high quality availability.

In interviews, the most common responses regarding the most pressing healthcare needs in Hendry County and Glades County were:

- transportation,
- mental health,
- diabetes, and
- access to primary care.

The most common responses on what one thing each leader would like to see happen to improve the health of the community were:

- public transportation,
- mental health,
- health education, and
- chronic disease prevention